

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03225 250807Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 241606Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8978

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNATO 431

USEC BRUSSELS 845

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3225

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, FR, PO, PINT

SUBJECT: SPANISH REACTION TO GISCARD'S VICTORY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. GOS GEFUINELY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH MITTERAND'S DEFEAT, WHICH, AGAINST BACKDROP OF IMPACT OF PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS, HAS REMOVED SUB-SURFACE FEAR OF LEFTIST ENCIRCLEMENT. SECONDLY, MFA HAS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION GISCARD'S PRE-ELECTORAL STATEMENTS SUPPORTING SPAIN'S ACCESSION TO EC AKD HIS ALLEGED PSYCHOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING OF SPANISH AFFAIRS BECAUSE OF FAMILY CONNECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. SPANISH MEDIA AND OFFICIAL. CLOSELY FOLLOWED FRENCH ELECTION CAMPAIGN. MOST COMMENTARY ANALYZED POST-DE GAULLE ERA WHICH SEEMED TO BE TAKING FORM. MOST OF PRESS GAVE EQUAL COVERAGE TO DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS OF THREE CANDIDATES, THEIR BIOGRAPHIES, WITHOUT TAKING SIDES. SOME NEWSPAPERS WENT SO FAR AS TO PRINT COMMENTS BY WELL-
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03225 250807Z

KNOWN PERSONALITIES EXPRESSING HOPE FOR MITTERAND VICTORY. GOS

ITSELF REFRAINED FROM ANY STATEMENTS.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, MFA OFFICIALS DID NOT CONCEAL FEARS ABOUT VICTORY BY MITTERAND AND PREFERENCE FOR GISCARD. CHABAN-DELMAS WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN "COMPROMISED" BY HIS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH BASQUES IN WOUTHWESTERN FRANCE AND THEREFORE LIKELY NOT TO UNDERSTAND SPANISH RESERVATIONS ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF EXILE BASQUES. PROSPECT OF MITTERAND VICTORY WAS UNWELCOME IN GOS WHICH WAS ALREADY CONCERNED BY SUDDEN EMERGENCE OF COMMUNIST MEMBERS IN NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL. THERE WAS GENUINE FEAR OF POSSIBLE ENCIRCLEMENT BY TWO NEW GOVERNMENTS WITH COMMUNIST MINISTERS IN TWO BORDERING COUNTRIES. SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, IT WAS FEARED AMONG SUPPORTERS OF ARIAS NAVARRO'S ANNOUNCED PROGRAM OF "APERTURA", CONTRARY TO FAVORING LIBERALIZATION IN SPAIN, WOULD HAVE EMBOLDENED RIGHT WING FORCES TO PRESS FOR MORE INTERNAL DISCIPLINE AND VIGILANCE.

4. PRIOR TO FINAL DECISION MAY 19 SPANISH PRESS HAD GIVEN EXTENSIVES COVERAGE TO STATEMENTS GATHERED FROM GISCARD AND MITTERAND SUPPORTING SPAIN'S EVENTUAL ADMISSION TO COMMON MARKET. MONARCHIST PAPER "ABC" PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GISCARD MAY 18 IN WHICH NEW PRESIDENT SAID SPAIN "WILL SOON BE A PART OF COMMON MARKET AND ALL THE EFFORTS TOWARDS 'LIBERALIZATION AND APERTURA' WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS END." GISCARD WENT ON TO REFER TO FRANCE'S "VOCATION" IN FACILITATING SPAIN'S ACCESSION FOR REASONS OF GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, AND ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH MADE IT DAILY A MORE IMPORTANT "PARTENAIRE". GISCARD ALSO REFERRED TO MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN PROMOTING "MEDITERRANEAN COMMUNITY". MFA OFFICIALS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT HIS COMMENTS REPRESENTED NO MORE OR LESS THAN THOSE BY POMPIDOU AND PHPOHER WHEN HE RECEIVED NEW SPANISH AMBASSADOR AT BEGINNING OF MONTH.

5. MFA OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO REFERRED TO POSSBILE "PSYCHOLOGICAL" ATTACHMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT TO SPAIN. GISCARD'S FATHER IS WELL-KNOWN AND HIGHLY RESPECTED HISPANICIST WHO IS PRESIDENT OF IBERO-AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN PARIS. SECONDLY, MADAME GISCARD IS RELATED TO AT LEAST ONE NOBLE SPANISH NAVARESE FAMILY.
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PAGE 03 MADRID 03225 250807Z

THERE IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT GISCARD HIMSELF SPEAKS SPANISH. FINALLY THERE IS STRONG SENSE OF AFFINITY AMONG YOUNGER GOS LEADERS FOR GISCARD'S TECHNOCRATIC NON-IDEOLOGICAL STYLE OF GOVERNING. MFA OFFICIALS ALSO NOTED FRIENDLY RAPPORT BETWEEN GISCARD AND SPANISH MINISTER OF FINANCE, BARRERA DE IRIMO (MADRID 2040).

6. COMMENT: ORDERLINESS, MASSIVE ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION, AND

EVIDENCE OF SMOOTH-FUNCTIONING DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN FRANCE HAVE GREATLY IMPRESSED SPANIARDS, MANY OF WHOM LOOK TO FRANCE FOR GUIDANCE. ALTHOUGH FEARS OF LEFTIST TURN NOW PAST, THERE IS STILL SOME APPREHENSION ABOUT LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF DEMONSTRATION OF LEFTIST ELECTORAL POWER. SPANISH RIVHT-WING GROUPS AND SPOKESMEN HAVE BECOME MORE ACTIVE SINCE PORTUGUESE EVENTS AND FRENCH ELECTIONS. IMPACT OF THEIR PLEAS FOR CONTINUED ADHERENCE TO FALANGIST TRADITIONS WILL HINGE IN GREAT MEASURE ON EVOLUTION OF POLITICAL CHANGES NOW UNDER WAY IN PORTUGAL AND CONTINUED STABILITY IN FRANCE.
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